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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Johnson et al.

Deposited: January 17, 2001

For: ANTI-MICROBIAL COMPOSITIONS

Edgewater, New Jersey 07020
January 17, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application filed concurrently herewith, please amend the following:

In the Claims:

Please enter the following amended claims:

3. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, that is a deodorant composition for use on the human body or in close proximity thereto.
4. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the cation of the chelator salt is a protonated amine.
6. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the organic cation is present at a level sufficient to neutralise at least 60% of any acid groups on the acid form of the chelator anion.

7. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the organic cation is present at a level sufficient to lead to an aqueous solution of the chelator salt having a pH of between 6 and 8 (at a molar concentration of chelator salt equal to that present in the composition).
8. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the anion of the transition metal chelator salt has affinity for iron (III).
9. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 8, characterised in that the anion of the transition metal chelator salt has a binding coefficient for iron (III) of greater than 1026.
10. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the transition metal chelator salt is a polyaminocarboxylic acid salt.
11. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the anion of the transition metal chelator salt has an acid form comprising at least five acid groups.
13. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that less than 50% by weight of water is present in the composition, excluding any volatile propellant that may be present.
15. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the chelator salt is present at a concentration of 0.01% to 10% by weight, excluding any volatile propellant present.
16. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, which is in the form of an aerosol composition comprising a volatile propellant.
18. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, comprising an additional anti-microbial agent.

21. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1, comprising fragrance material at up to 4% by weight of the composition.

22. (Amended) A method of controlling microbial numbers on the outer surface of the human body or on apparel worn in close proximity thereto, said method comprising the application to the outer surface of the human body or to apparel worn in close proximity thereto of an anti-microbial composition according to claim 1.

23. (Amended) A cosmetic method of inhibiting the generation of human body odour, said method comprising the application to the outer surface of the human body or to apparel worn in close proximity thereto of an anti-microbial composition according to claim 1.

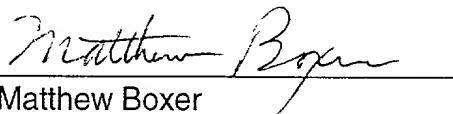
25. (Amended) A method according to claim 22 in which, in a preceding step, the outer surface of the human body or apparel worn in close proximity thereto is washed and/or in a preceding or simultaneous step is contacted with an anti-microbial agent thereby lowering the viable microbial population.

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple dependencies and to correct minor typographical errors.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 1 or 2, that is a deodorant composition for use on the human body or in close proximity thereto.
4. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that the cation of the chelator salt is a protonated amine.
6. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that the organic cation is present at a level sufficient to neutralise at least 60% of any acid groups on the acid form of the chelator anion.
7. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that the organic cation is present at a level sufficient to lead to an aqueous solution of the chelator salt having a pH of between 6 and 8 (at a molar concentration of chelator salt equal to that present in the composition).
- 5.-8. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that the anion of the transition metal chelator salt has affinity for iron (III).
- 6.-9. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to claim 8, characterised in that the anion of the transition metal chelator salt has a binding coefficient for iron (III) of greater than 1026.
- 7.-10. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, characterised in that the transition metal chelator salt is a polyaminocarboxylic acid salt.

11. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the anion of the transition metal chelator salt has an acid form comprising at least five acid groups.

13. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that less than 50% by weight of water is present in the composition, excluding any volatile propellant that may be present.

15. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the chelator salt is present at a concentration of 0.01% to 10% by weight, excluding any volatile propellant present.

16. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which is in the form of an aerosol composition comprising a volatile propellant.

18. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising an additional anti-microbial agent.

21. (Amended) An anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising fragrance material at up to 4% by weight of the composition.

22. (Amended) A method of controlling microbial numbers on the outer surface of the human body or on apparel worn in close proximity thereto, said method comprising the application to the outer surface of the human body or to apparel worn in close proximity thereto of an anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

23. (Amended) A cosmetic method of inhibiting the generation of human body odour, said method comprising the application to the outer surface of the human body or to apparel worn in close proximity thereto of an anti-microbial composition according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 21~~ claim 1.

25. (Amended) A method according to any of claims ~~22 to 24~~ claim 22 in which, in a preceding step, the outer surface of the human body or apparel worn in close proximity thereto is washed and/or in a preceding or simultaneous step is contacted with an anti-microbial agent thereby lowering the viable microbial population.

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BY THE ATTORNEY FOR THE APPLICANT
ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT